

Solway Sub-Aqua Club Risk Assessment Sheet – St Abbs Harbour Shore Dive

Site:	Date:	Expedition Leader:
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Site Description: A series of small rocky islands off the harbour wall. Maximum depth is typically 18 to 20m	Purpose of Dive:
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Hazard	Risk	Existing controls	Risk Control Measures	Person(s) responsible	Y/N
Slips, trips & falls Slippery access point	Injury to diver	None	Brief divers on no running rule. Also on how to put on and take off equipment safely. Be aware and look out for possible obstacles whilst walking or moving in diving equipment. Carry equipment with caution. Take great care on rocks particularly if wet. Use designated entry / egress point with care.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Road traffic	Injury to diver	None	Brief divers on the possibility of moving vehicles in the area. Always allow vehicles right of way, especially when wearing diving equipment.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Manual handling	Injury to diver	None	No loads greater than 25kg to be lifted by one person. Brief divers on correct methods of lifting. Divers to assist each other when donning and removing cylinders, etc.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Dropped loads	Injury to diver	None	Always lay cylinders on their side to avoid knocking over. Never leave an upright cylinder unattended. Take care when donning weight belt and make sure that it is properly secured.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Debris at entry site	Injury to diver	None	If debris are a problem change entry and exit locations. Alternatively, change site or move debris or change method of entry. If necessary abort dive.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
HP compressed gas	Sudden release of gas	Cylinders are regularly tested and certified	Always lay cylinders on their side to avoid knocking over. Never leave an upright cylinder unattended. Check O-ring for damage and in place. Do not over tighten valve when not in use.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Drowning Swallowing or inhaling excess water	Panic or death	All participants to be confident in water with reasonable swimming ability	Preventive maintenance of equipment. All cylinders and regulators to be tested and serviced in accordance with current UK regulations. Check made to ensure all cylinders are full at start. All participants to have completed annual medical form and that any afflictions to have been cleared by a doctor. As many people as possible to be trained in CPR and water skills	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Chemical in water e.g. chlorine	Allergic reaction	None	All people to confirm that they are not allergic to chemicals used pools. Anyone showing signs of skin, eye or nasal problems to wash in fresh water and seek medical advice before returning to the pool. Check that pool owner is analysing water as required.	All people involved in the expedition	N
Equipment malfunction Running out of air	Panic leading to DCS or drowning	All divers trained to check cylinder pressure gauge on assembly & during dive	Ensure equipment is in good working order and properly serviced. Ensure cylinders are adequately filled and that the valve is fully open. Carry out buddy check before dive. Brief divers to monitor pressure gauge reading regularly during dive and on out of air procedures. Plan to end dive with the reserve still in the cylinder. All divers to train for out of air situations and to practice skills regularly.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
DCS or other diver injury	Injury to diver	Oxygen and first aid kit to be available on all expeditions including pool	As many people as possible to be trained to deal with emergencies. Location of oxygen and first aid to be notified to everybody. Emergency phone numbers to be entered on log sheet.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Cold water	Hypothermia to diver Equipment malfunction	None	Choose appropriate, well fitting exposure protection that is in good condition. Reduce dive times if necessary. Divers to monitor buddy for early signs of cold, especially students. Divers to be briefed on appropriate signals to indicate chill. Have warm clothing, drinks and shelter on site. Use properly serviced equipment that is appropriate for the conditions. Train to deal with free flows regularly.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Cold / hot weather	Hypothermia / hyperthermia	None	All divers to wear suitable warm, dry clothing before and after dive. Don suit last when weather is warm.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Low visibility	Diver separation leading to injury	None	Avoid diving in threes. Ensure diver separation procedures are included in the briefing. Use buddy line if appropriate. Abort dive if necessary.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Deteriorating weather	Injury to divers	None	Plan dive using up-to-date weather forecast. Have contingency plan. Continuously monitor conditions prior to and during dive. Reassess diver comfort level. Have diver recall system in place. If diving from a boat notify coastguard of position in advance. Abort dive if necessary.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Wet decks on boats Wet pool side	Injury to diver	None	Brief location rules; stress no running and no walking with fins on. Buddy to assist in donning and removing kit. Be aware and look out for possible obstacles whilst walking or moving in diving equipment. Carry equipment with caution.	All people involved in the expedition	N

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Boat propeller	Injury to diver	None	Only competent skippers to operate boat. Brief boat exit and entry techniques. Boat to be in neutral when stopped. On surface all activities are controlled by skipper. Brief divers to look and listen for boat during ascent. Advise location for safety / decompression stops. Use SMB's wherever feasible. Divers to keep clear of shot line when being picked up.	All people involved in the expedition	N
Slipping on ladder	Injury to diver	None	Brief on proper technique for using particular ladder. Request assistance from above if required. Other divers in the water to keep clear of the ladder when in use.	All people involved in the expedition	N
Wreck penetration Cave penetration	Diver entrapment Drowning	None	Avoid entry into overhead environment unless trained, or being trained, to do so.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Fishing line, nets, kelp, obstructions	Panic, entrapment or entanglement, injury to diver, running out of air	None	Ensure equipment is streamlined on all divers. Ensure all hoses etc properly clipped up. Ensure buddy procedures in place. Ensure all divers have a tool / knife for cutting or attracting attention. Ensure tool / knife is sharp. Ensure tool / knife is located in an accessible position. Change dive site or dive plan if necessary.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Currents	Diver separation	None	Agree dive plan with skipper if diving from a boat. Ensure buddy procedures in place. Utilise tide tables where appropriate. Plan to start dive against current (unless a drift dive). Monitor air and diver comfort continuously. Carry appropriate surface detection aids. Have contingency exit points available. Abort dive if necessary.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Inflatable equipment	Injury to diver	None	All divers to be trained in the use of inflatable equipment such as BCD's, dry suits and SMB's. Brief stuck inflator and / or out of control of inflation techniques. Divers to regularly practice these skills.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Diver recall procedures	Injury to diver	None	Brief on diver recall procedures.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Chain across harbour wall entrance	Injury to diver	None	Brief all divers not to cross chain if it is in place. The chain being in place signifies that the harbour authorities feel that conditions are not suitable for shore diving. Abort the dive.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Uneven / slippery access / egress from rocks	Injury to diver	None	Carry equipment with caution. Take great care when donning fins etc. Avoid crowding, other divers to stand clear whilst waiting to enter water. Other divers in water to keep clear of entry point. Divers to assist each other with fins etc at end of dive. Ensure last diver out is clear of edge before buddy leaves area.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Boat traffic	Injury to diver	None	Do not dive in harbour. Do not cross harbour mouth. Use proper surfacing techniques. Avoid swimming just below the surface. Use SMB's.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Disorientation on surfacing	Injury to diver	Navigation skills	Ensure navigation skills are adequate. Familiarisation with site / maps before dive. Arrange shore cover on suitable vantage point.	All people involved in the expedition	Y
Other:					

I, the undersigned, confirm that I have read or had explained to me the above Risk Assessment and the Dive Specific Risk Assessment relating to the dive(s) I am about to undertake:

Signed: Emergency contact details:	Signed: Emergency contact details:	Signed: Emergency contact details:	Signed: Emergency contact details:
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